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500-11-01-2 Points of Rebellion

Amazing And Inexcusable Performance

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas in his new book "Points of Rebellion" has done nothing to improve his image with the public.

He says revolution may prove the only honorable alternative to what he — like the Students for a Democratic Society, the Black Panthers and others — refers to as the American Establishment.

He says "where grievances pile high and most of the elected spokesmen represent the Establishment, violence may be the only effective response."

And, he adds, whether the revolution proves violent depends on the Establishment. Because, he reasons, if the Establishment "resolves to suppress dissenters" with arms, it will face violent reaction and "an awful ordeal."

Likening the situation in the United

States today to the American Revolution, he writes:

"George III was the symbol against which our Founders made a revolution now considered bright and glorious. . . . We must realize that today's Establishment is the new George III. Whether it will continue to adhere to his tactics, we do not know. If it does, the redress, honored in tradition, is also revolution."

Not only is he attacking the entire American democratic system, which is entirely unlike the colonial rule of George III, he is coming about as close to advocating rebellion and revolution as one can come. This from a justice of the highest court in the land!

And while he is at it, Justice Douglas, who, for other reasons, on previous occasions has fallen to a low level in the public esteem, attacks the Pentagon, the FBI, the CIA, former Presidents Truman and Johnson, government and corporate agencies, the nation's tax laws, railroads, airlines and shipping companies, and what he terms racist policies by police, employers, educators.

He says "American protesters need not be submissive. A speaker who resists arrest is acting as a free man. The police do not have carte blanche to interfere with his freedom."

In short, it would appear that in his book Justice Douglas has left no stone unturned to disqualify himself as an impartial member of the U.S. Supreme Court — one who considers each case that comes before him on its merits and the law — not on preconceived notions.

He has done nothing to build confidence in him, or in the court itself, which also has seen better days in the public regard.

For a member of the court to openly advocate rebellion and revolution, is in our opinion, inexcusable. But then, so have been a lot of his other statements, actions and dealings in the past.